

REMARKS

Via this amendment, Claims 33 and 56-58 have been cancelled, and Claims 30-32, 37, 38, 41, 42, 45, 46, 50, 51, and 55 have been amended. The Examiner has indicated that Claims 33 and 34 are allowable. Therefore, Claims 30, 31 and 34-55 remain pending for prosecution.

Claims 30, 31, 32, 37, 38, 41, 42, 45, 46, 50, 51, and 55 have been amended to make minor changes to the wording of these claims. These amendments were not made for the purposes of patentability. No new matter has been introduced by the amendments and support for the amendments is found in the application as filed.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has indicated that Claims 33 and 34 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 30 has been amended to include the limitations of Claim 33 and Claim 33 has been canceled. Because Claim 30 is the base claim for Claim 33 and there are no intervening claims, Claim 30 now includes all the limitations of Claim 33 and its base claim. Therefore, Claim 30 and 34 have been amended to include the limitations required by the Examiner for allowability. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 30 and 34 are allowable.

II. Rejection of Claims 33-55 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, paragraph 2

The Examiner has rejected Claims 33-55 under 35 U.S.C. 112, paragraph 2 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Particularly, the Examiner states that Claim 35 recites "said intermediate part" for which there is a lack of antecedent basis in the previous claims.

Claim 33 has been canceled. In addition, as mentioned above, Claim 30 has been amended to include the limitations of Claim 33. Because Claim 33 included the limitation "an intermediate part," Claim 1, as amended, includes "an intermediate part." Thus, Claim 1 provides an antecedent basis for dependent claims 34-55. It is therefore, respectfully requested that the objection to Claims 33-55 be withdrawn.

III. Rejection of Claims 30 and 31 under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner has rejected Claims 30 and 31 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,610,254 ("Furner") et al.

"A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claims is found, either expressly or inherently in a single prior art reference." MPEP §2131; Verdegall Bros. V. Union Oil Co. of California, 814 F.2d 628, 631 (Fed. Cir. 1987).

It is respectfully submitted that the Examiner has failed to set forth a prima facie case of anticipation because Furner does not teach all the limitations of Claims 30 and 31. Particularly, Furner does not teach "wherein the adjustment means comprises an intermediate part and a rear part Examiner has indicated that Claim 33 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 30 has been amended by incorporating the limitations recited in Claim 33 into Claim 30. In addition, the Examiner has indicated that Claim 33 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Thus, because Claim 30, as amended, includes all the limitations of Claim 33, Claims 30 and 31 are not anticipated by Furner. It is therefore respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

IV. Rejection of Claims 30-32 under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner has rejected Claims 30-32 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being obvious over US Patent No. 5,527,493, inventor McElfresh et al. ("McElfresh").

It is respectfully submitted that the Examiner has failed to set forth a prima facie case of obviousness because Furner does not teach all the limitations of Claims 30 and 32. Particularly, Furner and McElfresh do not each "wherein the adjustment means comprises an intermediate part and a rear part Examiner has indicated that Claim 33 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

As discussed above in connection with the rejection under section 102, Claim 30 has been amended to include all the limitations of Claim 33. Because the Examiner has indicated that Claim 33 is allowable and Claim 30 includes all the limitations of Claim 33, Claim 30 is also allowable. It is therefore respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

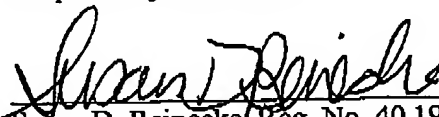
Conclusion

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth in this Amendment and Response to Office Action, it is respectfully submitted that the Pending Application, including Claims 30, 31, and 34-55, is in condition for allowance. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the foregoing amendments and responses be entered, and the Pending Application be promptly allowed.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned if such contact would in any way facilitate and expedite the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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